

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Aqueous Film Forming (AFFF) Workshop

We would like you to attend a one day workshop to discuss the impact of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (U.S.EPA) proposed rule which has the potential to ban future production and import of perfluorooctyl sulfonates (PFOS) chemicals to the Department of Defense. The Mil Spec for AFFF allows the use of PFOS, perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), and telomers as foaming agents. The U.S.EPA released data this past year that indicates PFOS chemicals are persistent, bioaccumulating and toxic. PFOS has been found in the blood of the general US population, in wildlife, and in people overseas. The 3M Company, the sole United States producer of ninety PFOS chemicals, has chosen to discontinue their manufacture and sale of all uses globally by December 31, 2002, and substantially reduce their manufacture for the most widespread uses of these chemicals by December 31, 2000.

The U.S. EPA is evaluating PFOA and telomer chemicals as a substitute for PFOS. PFOA and telomer are also persistence in the environment and more toxic than PFOS. Because of this, they also may be subject to manufacturers' withdrawal from the market place (similar to 3M's action for PFOS) or future EPA rule making. AFFF is used in a number of critical life saving situations in DoD. Currently, there are no known substitutes that are as effective as the materials in the Mil Spec. We've asked the Air Force Research Laboratory, Materials and Manufacturing Directorate to present recommendations and discuss potential substitutes. We plan to discuss "high-risk" uses of PFOS and what should be done to reduce or eliminate environmental releases of PFOS. We will also determine if DoD should switched to PFOA or telomer instead of PFOS. We need a multi-disciplinary team to conduct this review and develop an AFFF replacement strategy.

The workshop will be held on March 16, 2001, from 0800hrs - 1630hrs, in the OSD Conference Center, 1E801, Room 4, Pentagon. We also requested the Defense Logistic Agency to brief DoD's uses of PFOS. Attached is the meeting agenda. My POC for this Workshop is Lt Col Isaac Atkins, Director Occupational Health Policy, ODUSD (ES)/FP. He can be reached at (703) 604-1628, if you have any questions.

Curtis Bowling
Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense
Force Protection

Attachment:
As stated

Aqueous Film Forming (AFFF) Workshop

Agenda

Introduction (Overview)	Mr. Curtis Bowling
AFFF Environmental Issues	Dr. Doug Dierdorf, AFRL
Toxicity of PFOS, PFOA, Telomer	TBD, USEPA
Impact of AFFF Voluntary Production Ban on Army	TBD, DASA(ESOH)
Impact of AFFF Voluntary Production Ban on Navy	TBD, (E&S)
Impact of AFFF Voluntary Production Ban On AF	TBD, DASAF(ESOH)
Overview of AFFF Uses and Impact to Fire-fighting Operations	TBD, National Fire Protection Association
Impact AFFF Voluntary Production Ban On FAA	TBD, Federal Aviation Administration
PFOS Uses	TBD, Defense Logistics Agency
The Way Ahead	Workshop Members

Distribution

DASAF(ESOH)

DASN(E&S)

DASA(ESOH)

Defense Logistics Agency

AFRL/MMD

USEPA

Federal Aviation Administration

National Fire Protection Association